

REMARKS

The April 3, 2007 Office Action regarding the above-identified application has been carefully considered. The claim amendments above and these remarks are presented in a bona fide effort to respond thereto and address all issues raised in that Action. Claims 43 and 44 are pending in this case. Both claims are independent. The claims have been amended to more clearly distinguish over applied art. Care has been taken to avoid introduction of new matter. For reasons discussed below, it is believed that this case is in condition for allowance. Prompt favorable reconsideration of this amended application is requested.

The final Office Action again rejected claims 43 and 44 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by US patent no. 6,300,976 to Fukuoka. It is respectfully submitted that Fukuoka does not satisfy all requirements of either claim 43 or claim 44, particularly in view of the amendments above.

The rejection includes an assertion that Fukuoka's output from the I/O card 15 to an external computer, cell phone or TV monitor inherently involves conversion of a picture image from CCD sensor 9 into a signal format adapted to the particular external device (section 1 of the April 3, 2007 final Official Action). In support of this interpretation, the rejection cites to FIG. 3 and column 3, lines 27-55, of the 6,300,976 Fukuoka patent. The rejection also cited column 2 line 49 and lines 15-65 of column 7 of Fukuoka in support of the allegation that Fukuoka's selection of I/O functions as disclosed in those portions of the patent text satisfy previous claim requirements for "inputting picture information required in an image forming apparatus." It is respectfully submitted that Fukuoka does not satisfy the amended claims on the relevant points.

The claims refer to "image data" and "picture information." In the context of the present application, "image data" is the actual data representing an image, such as analog or digital data;

and the image data is converted from a format used in the camera to another format adapted to the external device intended to receive such data. The “picture information” is different or in addition to the image data, more specifically, for use in controlling processing of image data. Examples of picture information disclosed in the application include information about a form size, an orientation of the form, a resolution, a magnification, and an offset value (see page 27, lines 10-18). The claims have been amended to emphasize this point. Claim 43, for example, specifically recites that “picture information regarding processing of image data from the camera by the external image forming apparatus.” Claim 44 similarly recites “picture information regarding processing of image data from the camera by an external device.” Selection of a port or device for data output is not enough to meet either of the input information recitations. In both claims, the conversion converts image data in the camera according to the picture information, so as to form image data adapted to that external apparatus or device. It is submitted that Fukuoka does not disclose converting image data in the camera that is to be sent to the external device or image forming apparatus into image data adapted to the device or apparatus according to the input picture information, where the input picture information is information regarding processing of image data from the camera by the external device or apparatus, as now clearly recited in the claims.

For at least these reasons, Fukuoka does not anticipate either of the pending claims; and the rejection over Fukuoka should now be withdrawn.

Upon entry of the above claim amendments, claims 43 and 44 remain active in this application, both of which should be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, this case should now be ready to pass to issue; and Applicant respectfully requests a prompt favorable reconsideration of this matter. It is believed that this response addresses all issues raised in the

April 3, 2007 Office Action. However, if any further issue should arise that may be addressed in an interview or by an Examiner's amendment, it is requested that the Examiner telephone Applicant's representative at the number shown below.

To the extent necessary, if any, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Keith E. George".

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